

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of requests are received for connection to a port number on the server, comprising:

determining, in response to a request from a host for a connection to a port number on the server, if the number of connections to the port and assigned to the host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and, if so,

denying the request for a connection.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which denying the request further comprises: overriding the denial and allowing the request if a quality of service parameter pertaining to the requesting host permits the override.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a connection request is denied in any event if the number of available connections to the port are less than a constrained threshold.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 or claim 2 or claim 3 further comprising: calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of available connections remaining for the port.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of requests are received for connection to a port number on the server, comprising:

means for determining, in response to a request from a host for a connection to a port number on the server, if the number of connections to the port and assigned to the host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and

means responsive to the determining means for denying the request for a connection.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 in which means for denying further comprises: means responsive to a quality of service parameter pertaining to the requesting host for overriding a request denial and allowing the request.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:  
means for denying a connection request in any event if the number of available connections to the port are less than a constrained threshold.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 or claim 6 or claim 7 further comprising:  
means for calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of available connections remaining for the port.

9. (Currently Amended) A storage media containing program code segments for preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of requests are received for connection to a port number on the server, comprising:

a first code segment activated in response to a request from a host for a connection to a port number on the server for determining if the number of connections to the port and assigned to the host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and

a second code segment responsive to the first code segment for denying the request for a connection.

10. (Original) The media of claim 9 in which the second code segment further comprises:

a third code segment for overriding the denial and allowing the request if a quality of service parameter pertaining to the requesting host permits the override.

11. (Original) The media of claim 10 further comprising a fourth code segment for denying a connection request in any event if the number of available connections to the port are less than a constrained threshold.

12. (Original) The media of claim 9 or claim 10 or claim 11 further comprising:

a fifth code segment for calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of available connections remaining for the port.

13. (Original) A carrier wave containing program code segments for preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of requests are received for connection to a port number on the server, comprising:

a first code segment activated in response to a request from a host for a connection to a port number on the server for determining if the number of connections to the port and assigned to the host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and

a second code segment responsive to the first code segment for denying the request for a connection.

14. (Original) The carrier wave of claim 13 in which the second code segment further comprises:

a third code segment for overriding the denial and allowing the request if a quality of service parameter pertaining to the requesting host permits the override.

15. (Original) The carrier wave of claim 14 further comprising a fourth code segment for denying a connection request in any event if the number of available connections to the port are less than a constrained threshold.

16. (Original) The carrier wave of claim 13 or claim 14 or claim 15 further comprising:  
a fifth code segment for calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of available connections remaining for the port.